

# Policy Statement

**Subject:** Blaster Re-Certification training hours and sources

**Date:** January 22, 1999

**Revised:** October 26, 2005

**Background:** The Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (VSFPC) has contained the regulations on the storage, use, manufacture and sale of explosives and blasting agents for construction (outside of mining and quarry operations) in the Commonwealth. The VSFPC has also contained the requirement that anyone that uses explosives, or supervises the loading or firing of explosives, be certified as a "BLASTER" by the DHCD either as "Restricted" or "Unrestricted".

Any blaster certification issued expires 3 years after the date of issuance.

Renewal of unrestricted blaster certification is issued upon proof of at least 16 hours of continued training or education in the use of explosives within three consecutive years. Renewal of restricted blaster certification is issued upon proof of at least 8 hours of continued training or education in the use of explosives within three consecutive years.

Since before the inception of blaster certification, and with the input of industry representatives ("the industry") on the subject of re-certification hours and in particular, acceptable type(s) and source(s) of training hours, the industry has effectively stated that *this is something the industry can and should take care of itself*.

**Statement:** *Acceptable types of training* means any subject related to explosives which can include, but is not limited to: new products, magazine housekeeping, shot design, transportation, safety, packing and unpacking explosives, storage practices, magazine construction, placarding, handling misfires, etc. This can include any information that may be new to the individual(s) or is repetitive. The viewing of video tapes in and of itself is not acceptable training unless incorporated into a course wherein an instructor is available to accurately respond to questions raised from the viewing and correct any outdated information contained in the video tape.

*Acceptable sources of training* means from any in-state or out-of-state individual, company, vendor, association or entity that provides or delivers a course of instruction, training or educational session, in a formal or informal setting. This may include, but is not limited to: any Va. Dept. of Mines, Minerals & Energy courses; any U.S. Bureau of Mines academy courses; manufacturers (including field representatives); trade associations; vendors for retail or wholesale priced explosives; any local or state government sponsored, sanctioned or hosted training; a company's designated Safety Director who's employment includes a major aspect of ensuring company employees receive all governmental designated or required training and related record keeping of such training; etc., and proven with documentation of attendance and hours. Documents that effectively say, *"this is what I did for myself"* will be judged as **not acceptable**.

This policy will remain in effect until such time as it is repealed or modified.

  
Emory Rodgers  
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